

Message Text

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SUBJ: MONTREAL GAZETTE STORY ALLEGES CANADIAN ICC REP VN WAS
ACTING IN INTELLIGENCE ROLE FOR US

1. SUMMARY: JAN 14 MONTREAL GAZETTE STORY ASSERTS
THAT WILLIAM MACOMBER TESTIMONY DURING 1971
PENTAGON PAPERS COURT CASE SHOWS THAT CANADIAN REP
TO VIETNAM ICC PLAYED AN "INTELLIGENCE ROLE" FOR
US AND WAS NOT JUST GO-BETWEEN WITH NORTH VIETNAM.
GAZETTE FURTHER CLAIMS THAT THEN CANADIAN EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS MIN MITCHELL SHARP MISLED HOUSE OF COMMONS
IN ASSERTING ICC REP PLAYED ONLY GO-BETWEEN ROLE.
ICC REP BLAIR SEABORN, WHO NOW OTTAWA CIVIL SERVANT,
DENIES GAZETTE INFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. JAN 14 MONTREAL GAZETTE STORY REPORTS THAT
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"TOP SECRET" US DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS OF US
OFFICIAL REVEAL THAT BLAIR SEABORN, CANADA'S CHIEF
REP ON VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION
(ICC) IN 1964-65, HAD "AN INTELLIGENCE ROLE"
FOR THE US AND WAS NOT ACTING MERELY AS US AND
NORTH VIETNAM GO-BETWEEN.

3. ARTICLE CITES 1971 TESTIMONY OF THEN DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION WILLIAM MACOMBER BEFORE US DISTRICT COURT HEARING PENTAGON PAPERS CASE. MACOMBER REPORTEDLY SAID, "THERE ARE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS, AT LEAST ONE THAT I HAVE SEEN IN THIS MATERIAL WHICH MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT MR. SEABORN WAS IN FACT ACTING IN AN AGENCY ROLE FOR US AND IN AN INTELLIGENCE ROLE FOR US. HE WAS GIVEN CERTAIN THINGS TO LOOK FOR, VERY DAMAGING AND CONTRARY TO WHAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOW SAID IN PARLIAMENT."

4. GAZETTE STORY CHARGES THAT THEN ACTING PRIME MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP MISLED HOUSE OF COMMONS IN JUNE, 1971 STATEMENT THAT SEABORN HAD DONE NO MORE THAN TRANSMIT MESSAGES AND HAD NOT ACTED DIRECTLY ON BEHALF OF U.S. GAZETTE POINTS TO PURPORTED MACOMBER TESTIMONY THAT, "NOW, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED BY THIS (THE BOOK). BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL THE DOCUMENTS CAME OUT THAT THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS FUROR AND THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER HAD TO MAKE A STATEMENT WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH DOCUMENTS THAT WILL EMERGE." BOOK REFERRED TO IS "THE LAST CRUSADE" BY CHESTER L. COOPER AND, ACCORDING TO GAZETTE, IT DEALT AT SOME LENGTH WITH SEABORN MISSION.

5. SEABORN WHO IS NOW DEPUTY MINISTER IN ENVIRONMENT CANADA WAS CONTACTED BY GAZETTE AND HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DENIED HAVING PLAYED INTELLIGENCE ROLE FOR US. GAZETTE QUOTES HIM AS SAYING, "THERE MAY HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA, ASKING THAT I SEEK CERTAIN INFORMATION, BUT IF THERE WAS, I WAS NEVER AWARE OF IT AND I ONLY SOUGHT WHAT MY GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR."

6. COMMENT: HOUSE OF COMMONS IN CHRISTMAS RECESS UNTIL JAN 24 PREVENTING REACTION IN THAT FORUM. WE EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT GAZETTE STORY WILL GIVE RISE TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES. WE PLAN NO COMMENT RESPONSE IF QUEERIED. ENDERS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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